FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 APRIL 1987

Israel

USSR Relations — Israel has informed the Soviets that it will accept their delegation and it assumes that they will receive an Israeli delegation, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated in a Jerusalem radio interview. On the other hand, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov reaffirmed the USSR's opposition to any reciprocal arrangement in an interview with the radio. The Soviet consular delegation is being sent to Israel in connection with Soviet citizens and real estate there, whereas Israel has no citizens or property in the USSR to worry about, he said. Asked about Soviet policy on Jewish emigration, Gerasimov said the Soviets "do not have quotas" and the number of emigrants will depend on the number of applications.

Katz Denial on Pollard — Harold Katz, a former legal adviser to the Defense Ministry who is wanted for questioning by U.S. authorities, stated that he had "no part" in the Pollard operation. In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, he affirmed that if "certain persons" used his Washington apartment in connection with the Pollard operation, this was without his permission or knowledge.

Egypt

Egyptian Prisoners in Libya — The Libyan agency JANA issued a 3 April report to "clarify" the issue raised by Egypt of three Egyptian prisoners held in Libya. The three were members of an Egyptian espionage and sabotage network and they were "unmasked and arrested" in May 1986 while in possession of "electronic guidance equipment," JANA affirmed, pointing out that it reported the incident at the time and the Egyptians' "confessions" were broadcast by Libyan television.

AUC Attack — Security forces arrested a man who threw Molotov cocktails on the campus of the American University in Cairo, MENA reported, noting that the man claims to belong to Hizballah, "an organization that does not exist in Egypt."

U.S. Hostages in Lebanon

U.S. hostage Allan Steen's condition continues to deteriorate and he will die within hours, fellow hostage Jesse Turner warned in a videotape message to a local newspaper cited by KUNA 3 April. Turner urged the United States to respond to his kidnappers' demands, appealing to the United States, Israel, and any international body to "do something to save us."

Chadian Conflict

A communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio announced that Chadian Government troops captured Gouro, northwest of Ounianga, adding that this latest victory means the entire Borkou and Ennedi region is free of Libyan troops. The Chadians seized 10 vehicles in the attack and they captured more equipment in other operations near Zouar, in the Tibesti area. The communique urged Libyan forces to leave the Aouzou Strip "before it is too late." Acheikh ibn Oumar, leader of the Libyan-backed GUNT, acknowledged that his forces have experienced "difficulties" in recent battles, but he added that the GUNT has not lost the war. Speaking in an address to Chadians broadcast by the clandestine Radio Bardai, he said that lightly-equipped GUNT forces could not withstand the "massive military deployment supplied to the Ndjamena clique by French and American imperialism." However, GUNT's fighters are still deployed in the Tibesti, Ennedi, and Borkou regions, he said, and their supporters should not be demoralized by the western media's "disinformation campaign."

In another development, the Chadian charge d'affaires warned that Chadian forces will fight Libyan forces inside Sudan if the Libyans do not withdraw from that country, SUNA reported. However, a Khartoum paper cited by the agency "confirmed" that Libyan troops began to withdraw from Sudan 31 March in accordance with an agreement between Sudanese and Libyan leaders. Sudanese envoys left for Tripoli and Ndjamena 1 April carrying messages for the Libyan and Chadian leaders, SUNA added.

Sudan's Internal Affairs

A commentary by the SPLA's clandestine radio denounced the "arbitrary detention" of Sudan National Party leader Father Philip 'Abbas Ghabbush on 26 March, asserting that by confining Ghabbush to a prison cell, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has taken a further step in eroding his "sham democracy." The radio linked Ghabbush's arrest with his support for the Koka Dam peace process and accused the authorities of persecuting Ghabbush's Nubah followers because of fears in Khartoum about "possible large scale defections of the Nubah to the SPLA." Ghabbush and two of his party colleagues were arrested on charges of financial malpractice, according to a Khartoum press report cited by SUNA 27 March.

Iranian Helicopter in Turkey

An Iranian military helicopter carrying three officers and three civilians landed in Turkey's Van Province 2 April, Ankara radio disclosed.

PDRY

Defense Minister Brigadier Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad began official talks with a visiting Soviet military delegation headed by Deputy Defense Minister General Yevgeniy Ivanovskiy, Aden radio reported. Ahmad praised the USSR's "unlimited support" for strengthening the combat and defense capacity of the PDRY armed forces, and Ivanovskiy confirmed the "constant Soviet support" for the PDRY military.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 064 *3 April 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Spokesman Views Pakistani Downing of Aircraft ..... C 1
Karachi Reports 'Severe Fighting' in Helmand *[Karachi]* ..... C 2

BANGLADESH

Embassies in Kenya, Brunei, Zimbabwe To Be Closed *[AFP]* ..... D 1
Government Willing To Resolve Refugee Issue ..... D 1
Efforts To Aid Chittagong Tribes Detailed ..... D 1

INDIA

Angolan President, Gandhi Hold Talks 2 Apr ..... E 1
State Minister on 1986 Trade Volume With PRC ..... E 1
Police Kill 3 'Terrorists' in Punjab 2 Apr ..... E 1
Inhabitants of 3 Border Areas To Receive ID Cards ..... E 1
USSR Ambassador Comments on Sri Lanka, Pakistan *[PATRIOT 28 Mar]* ..... E 1
Scientific, Techical Agreement With USSR Detailed *[THE HINDU 23 Mar]* ..... E 2
HINDU Voices 'Concern' Over Pakistani Army Leaders *[19 Mar]* ..... E 2
Details on Pakistan Probe of Aircraft Hijacking Sought *[THE HINDU 27 Mar]* ..... E 3
PATRIOT Views Latest Sri Lankan Talks Progress *[25 Mar]* ..... E 4
PATRIOT Criticizes World Bank Recommendations *[26 Mar]* ..... E 4
HINDU Poll Finds 'Negative' Perceptions of Budget *[23 Mar]* ..... E 4

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

President Meets With Indian High Commissioner *[Delhi]* ..... G 1
Separatist Leader on Negotiations, Army Camps *[Delhi THE HINDU 27 Mar]* ..... G 1
Student Suspects Held for Subversive Activities ..... G 2
18 Killed in Attack on Army Camp in Velvettiturai *[Delhi]* ..... G 2

IRAN

Majlis Speaker's Sermon on U.S. Arms Sales, War ..... I 1
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Confers With SAIRI Chairman ..... I 1
Guards Corps Claims New Year Will Be 'Fruitful' ..... I 2
Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2,794 ..... I 2
'U.S. Agent' Arrested in Power Struggle Bid *[Radio of the Iranian Toilers]* ..... I 2
Khomeyni Guards Kill Four During Protest *[Radio of the Iranian Toilers]* ..... I 2

Spokesman Views Pakistani Downing of Aircraft
LD022057 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] In reply to a question from the BIA correspondent concerning the circumstances surrounding the shocking crime of the downing of a DRA AN-26 transport and passenger plane by two U.S.-made F-16 aircraft belonging to the Pakistani Air Force, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has said the following:

Parallel to the growing and victorious process of the revolution and the humanitarian national reconciliation policy in the DRA, imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, in collaboration with the militarist regime of Islamabad, is systematically intensifying its plots and conspiracies against out country and [word indistinct] them by the perpetration of new crimes against our free-born people.

Among these crimes against our people and homeland, in the form of aggressive and interventionist attacks, the attack on a DRA civilian and transport plane by the militarist regime of Islamabad on the direct instruction of the Washington administration, and violations against the sovereignty, national independence, and territorial integrity of our country take a special place.

For example, last year the fighting servants of reaction and imperialism committed grave crimes and shot down two DRA passenger and transport planes, which were on domestic flights, using U.S.-made Stringer missiles [words indistinct]. As a result of the first attack, 51 persons were mercilessly martyred, and as a result of the second, 36 of our compatriots were martyred.

Our compatriots were informed of the continuation of such events. On 30 March a DRA AN-26 passenger and transport plane, carrying 40 passengers and crew including two children with their father, was on a domestic flight over Chamkani District in Paktia Province, on the border margin. The plane was hit by air-to-air missiles fired by two U.S.-made F-16 fighter aircraft belonging to the Pakistani Air Force and was downed.

After this criminal event, Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo clearly admitted that the Pakistani Air Force had downed a DRA plane while it allegedly violated Pakistani airspace. All of this has brought about his satisfaction and delight. Of course, the perpetration of a crime always gives delight to its organizer.

Experience clearly proves that the committing of such crimes by reaction and imperialism against our people is no accident. These crimes occur against our people and country in accordance with an interventionist, aggressive, and pre-meditated plan by the U.S. Administration and its regional collaborators, particularly the militarist Islamabad regime.

The truth is now so clear that it cannot be hidden by embarking on a propaganda campaign. Everyone now knows what kind of action is being organized to achieve what kind of objective! Serving as an example are the pre-meditated and baseless propaganda statements of Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and Pakistan's defense minister, saying that the DRA passenger plane had allegedly penetrated 16 km into Pakistani airspace and that two U.S.-made F-16 planes belonging to Pakistan's Air Force, prior to downing the plane, tried to force it to land in Parachinar city.

Every rational mind is now questioning the validity of this assertion, proving the complete baselessness of claims by the high Pakistani authorities regarding the circumstances of the shooting down of this plane.

The first question that arises is why, in broad daylight, the Pakistani Air Force did not recognize the passenger and transport plane carrying 40 passengers, with its huge body, as it committed the so-called violation, since the F-16's were loaded with advanced instruments supplied to them by the United States? Why was the AN-26 not questioned and warned?

Secondly, if the Pakistani Air Force tried to force the plane to land, as Junejo and the Pakistani defense minister have admitted in their statements, why was it unsuccessful in doing so?

Also, why was the make of the plane and the number of its passengers not mentioned by the Pakistani authorities when they explained the circumstances surrounding this incident?

In addition, it was claimed that the plane was attacked by the Pakistani Air Force in the territory of Pakistan; however, the body of the plane crashed on Afghan soil. Also, one may question how a passenger plane can, as claimed by the Pakistani authorities, be assigned on a reconnaissance mission?

[Word indistinct] there are various questions that clearly prove the baselessness of the propaganda claims by the Pakistani authorities in this respect. Nevertheless, the fact remains that this is not the first time the Pakistani authorities, either by themselves or through the extremists dependent on reaction and imperialism, have committed such crimes against the sovereignty, national independence, and territorial integrity of our country.

This time, by directly committing such a criminal act contrary to accepted international standards, the Pakistani authorities sought to justify to world public opinion their previous unfounded claims regarding so-called repeated violations by the DRA Air Force of Pakistan's airspace and use them as a propaganda trick for attaining the interventionist and aggressive objectives of their imperialist supporters in regard to our people.

While noting the approach of the Pakistani authorities with regard to the DRA, the question comes to every rational mind that if the Pakistani leaders and their imperialist supporters have no interest in endangering civilian passenger and transport flights or in intensifying the situation within the framework of their interventionist plans against our country, why, when every effort is being made to reach a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan, does it plan to deliver more U.S.-made Stinger missiles to the extremist armed opposition with the direct cooperation of the Pakistani authorities, contrary to all accepted norms?

An example of the broad propaganda campaign that has always been launched by the media after such crimes have been committed by imperialism — headed by U.S. imperialism — is the

staged and organized interview with Pakistan's Prime Minister Junejo with a BBC correspondent on the circumstances surrounding the shooting down of the DRA AN-26. This is another indication that this action was organized in advance, revealing the collaboration between the Pakistani authorities and their imperialist supporters as well as their propaganda tricks.

It would be better if the Pakistani authorities took responsible action as regards the demand and will of the people of this country and avoided being a tool in the hands of others.

Otherwise, undoubtedly, the responsibility for the dangerous and historic consequences of such provocations will be shouldered by their people.

Karachi Reports 'Severe Fighting' in Helmand

BK021542 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that at least (?seven) Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed in severe fighting with the mujahidin recently in (Yafsar) area of Helmand Province. The mujahidin also damaged 13 tanks and a number of armored vehicles.

Another report says that the mujahidin destroyed an office of the spy organization of KHAD at Hazrat-e Soltan subdivision in Samangan Province. One of the KHAD officers and three other personnel were killed in the attack.

Embassies in Kenya, Brunei, Zimbabwe To Be Closed

BK021634 Hong Kong AFP in English 0917 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Dhaka, April 2 (AFP) — Bangladesh has decided to close its embassies in Brunei, Kenya, and Zimbabwe as an economy measure, officials confirmed Thursday. A Foreign Office spokesman said the winding up of the three missions will be implemented gradually.

The embassy in Brunei was opened in 1984.

The spokesman said other missions might be closed after a review of their performance and viability.

Bangladesh is currently reviewing its diplomatic presence abroad where it has resident missions in 48 countries. The spokesman said the government was taking financial considerations into account.

Press reports earlier said that the government had asked its embassies to give more emphasis to economic activities aimed at boosting Bangladesh's exports.

The embassies in Kenya and Zimbabwe were opened in 1975 and 1981 respectively.

Government Willing To Resolve Refugee Issue

BK021343 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Bangladesh has once again reiterated its willingness to take back all genuine refugees from India who crossed over to the other side of the border from Chittagong Hill Tracts region. Addressing a news conference in Dhaka today, the deputy foreign minister, Wajid Ali Khan (Punny), said Bangladesh wanted the refugees to return home and was persuading [as heard] the issue with Indian authorities. He said Bangladesh is keen to resolve the refugee issue in a spirit of friendship with India. The deputy foreign minister hoped that India also wants to resolve the refugee issue without delay. Mr (Punny) told newsmen that the chiefs of Indian Border Security Force and the Bangladesh Rifles are meeting in Dhaka for 4-day official talks from tomorrow. He said the Chakma issue and the situation along the borders of the two countries are likely to come up in the meeting.

Efforts To Aid Chittagong Tribes Detailed

BK020350 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Government has categorically stated there is no question of law enforcing agencies committing acts of violence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region. Addressing newsmen in the capital yesterday evening the information secretary, Mr (Mohammad Chowdhury), said it is the obligation of any government to protect the life and property of its peace-loving citizens. (?In pursuance) of its duty, government has to deal with terrorists and miscreants who indulge in murders, loot, and arson in the Hill Tracts. If there is any violation of human rights against life and property these are being perpetrated by the so called Shanti Bahini [Peace Army] bandits, comprising Chakma miscreants, from their sanctuaries across the Bangladesh border.

The information secretary said most tribal people do not support the activities of the miscreants and terrorists. In order to allow the misguided elements of these miscreants to return to normal life, government declared an amnesty and granted certain concessions for their rehabilitation. These concessions include withdrawal of cases against them, cash reward for arms and ammunition surrendered, allotment of 5 acres of [words indistinct] land free of cost, necessary loan for agriculture and horticulture at low rate of interest, a cash grant of 5,000 taka for subsistence and construction of dwelling houses, and (?food) support for the first year. In response to this amnesty, 1,814 misguided tribals surrendered up to the end of January 1985. The misguided tribals are still welcome to avail themselves of the government amnesty.

The information secretary also spoke of massive development program now under execution in the Hill Tracts region through development of agriculture, horticulture, communication, health, and education. In pursuance of government policy of developing backward areas, huge investments have been made in the Hill Tracts region in order to raise the standard of living of the people. The largest program is embodied in the special 5-year plan for Chittagong Hill Tracts which is fully financed by the government from its own resources. It plans a total outlay of 2,621 million taka.

Special measures have also been taken in providing quotas for tribal students in allocation of seats for higher learning in the country. Nine seats in the engineering university and colleges, six seats in the agricultural university and colleges, six seats in private colleges, and 36 seats in polytechnic institutes have been reserved for tribal students. The information secretary said the effects of all these measures have been very positive and it is evident from the present rate of literacy among the three major tribes. The rate of literacy among Chakma is 30 percent, among Larma 20 percent, and among Tripura 20 percent. This is against only 2 to 3 percent overall literacy in 1971. At present there are 7,000 tribal graduates whereas in 1971 the number was only 45. The number of tribals holding post-graduate degrees now is over 1,000 as against only 1 during the war of independence. In 1971 there was not a single tribal doctor or engineer. Now there are over 100 doctors and a similar number of engineers.

The information secretary said there was hardly any medical service available to the people in the Hill Tracts before 1971. Now each of the 25 upazillas [subdistricts] has a full-fledged health complex. Rangamati has a 100-bed hospital and two other district headquarters have a 50-bed hospital each.

Angolan President, Gandhi Hold Talks 2 Apr

BK021608 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the president of Angola, Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos, had wide-ranging talks covering regional, international, and economic issues in New Delhi today.

During their 2-hour-long meeting, they reviewed the situation in Southern Africa, particularly in Namibia, and attempts to destabilize the Frontline States by the racist Pretoria regime. They also discussed the Africa Fund, not merely on its financial aspect but in the larger context of mobilizing support to bring about early transition to majority rule in South Africa. On economic issues, they felt that cooperation should not be viewed on commercial lines but should become part of developmental process.

Briefing spokesman, the official spokesman said that high-level delegations of the two countries met separately and discussed bilateral economic cooperation.

The Indian side, which was led by the commerce minister, Mr Shiv Shanker, included the ministers of industry, agriculture, surface transport, and the minister of state for finance.

Their talks covered various fields like industry, agriculture, and training of Angolan personnel. They also discussed ways of greater cooperation in mining and trade of diamonds. Petroleum and oil exploration also figured in their talks. The Angolan side showed keen interest in buying goods from India. The possibility of providing export credit was also discussed.

Earlier, Mr Santos called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, and the vice president, Mr R. Venkataraman. Giani Zail Singh is hosting a dinner in honor of visiting dignitary tonight.

State Minister on 1986 Trade Volume With PRC

BK031051 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] India and China will sign their bilateral annual trade protocol next month. This was stated by the minister of state for commerce, Mr P R Das Munshi, in the Lok Sabha today. He said both countries are keen on developing trade relations. The minister said the achievement in last year's trade turnover was $140 million as against the target of $160 million. He said India is exploring the possibility of exporting two boilers from BHEL [Bharat Heavy Electricals, Limited] to China.

Police Kill 3 'Terrorists' in Punjab 2 Apr

BK021242 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] In Punjab, three terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police near village Azizpur in Gurdaspur district today. According to an official spokesman, these terrorists had earlier in the morning shot dead two persons, including the police bodyguard of a shopkeeper at Sarna near Pathankot.

Inhabitants of 3 Border Areas To Receive ID Cards

BK031025 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has said that identity cards will be issued to the people living in the border areas of Gujarat, West Bengal, and Bihar. This system has been introduced for the first time in Rajasthan's border areas some time ago. Speaking to newsmen near Jalor in Rajasthan, Mr Buta Singh said the voters list in the four [as heard] states would be prepared on the basis of identity cards to eliminate bogus entries.

About the Jodhpur detenues [Punjab extremists held in a Jodhpur jail] the home minister said their release will depend on the outcome of their cases. He said the peace marches being organized by various political parties in Punjab are having a good impact.

USSR Ambassador Comments on Sri Lanka, Pakistan

BK021212 Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Mar 87 p 6

[By "Our Staff Correspondent"]

[Text] Madras, March 27 — The Soviet Union and India see eye to eye with regard to the Sri Lanka's ethnic crisis. This was stated by V.N. Rykov, Ambassador of the USSR in India. Mr Rykov who was on a visit to the southern States was talking to newsmen here this morning.

The Soviet Ambassador said that his country stood for a political settlement to the Lanka Tamils' problem through peaceful negotiations. The USSR's position concided with the stand taken by India on this issue, he added.

Mr Rykov said though there was no direct reference to the Lanka Tamils' issue in the Delhi Declaration signed by General Secretary Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, it had underscored that relations between peoples should be built on the basis of mutual trust and problems be settled peacefully and politely.

"I think, the Lanka Tamils' issue should also be approached and settled on the basis of the principles laid down in the Delhi Declaration", he opined.

When his attention was drawn to the observation made by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] chairman U.R. Rao that India had not yet received the details of the international space centre to be set up in the country with the Soviet help, as announced by General Secretary Gorbachev during his visit to India in November last year, the Soviet Ambassador said talks were being held at the experts level.

Mr. Rykov felt setting up of an international space centre was a major project. The Chairman of the USSR State Committee recently had met Prof U.S. Rao and discussed the matter with him. The Soviet-Indian experts would continue to exchange their views on this proposal, he said.

Answering a question, Mr Rykov said, the Soviet Union was a party to the non-proliferation treaty. "That's why our reaction to

the possibility of a nuclear weapon in your region is quite clear". The Soviet Ambassador explained in detail the cooperation extended to India in the fields of industry trade, science and culture. He made particular references to the projects in South India.

PTI adds: Mr V.N. Rykov said that his country was against Pakistan acquiring nuclear capability as it would escalate tension in the region.

Mr Rykov also said his country was against formation of blocks anywhere in the world.

Scientific, Techical Agreement With USSR Detailed

BK021119 Delhi THE HINDU in English 23 Mar 87 p 9

["From Our Science Correspondent"]

[Text] New Delhi, March 22 — The working paper signed here on science and technology cooperation between India and the Soviet Union (briefly reported yesterday) incorporates a structure suggested by Prof. C.N.R. Rao, Chairman of the Science Advisory Council (SAC), to the Prime Minister, to facilitate the collaborative programme.

As part of this structure, each country will have a Central Coordinating Committee, which will have membership from all the scientific agencies and governmental bodies to coordinate the entire process including funding and arranging exchange programmes. In Prof. Rao's view, the Indian coordinating committee will need its own budget and how exactly the committee is to function has to be worked out.

The final document, which was the outcome of week-long discussions between the Soviet delegation led by Academician G.I. Marchuk, President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and the Indian delegation headed by Prof. Rao, is expected to be ready by the beginning of next year. It will identify institutions and indiiduals participating in specific projects of basic sciences and technology. "I believe we have made a good beginning and we look forward to fruitful collaboration," Prof. Rao said.

According to him, the Soviet delegation is the most powerful scientific team to visit India from any country and its enthusiasm is matched by India's earnestness for collaboration.

Broad areas identified: The broad areas that the bilateral talks have identified are biotechnology and immunology, material science and technology, lasers, catalysis, space sciences, synchrotron radiation technology and prospecting for water from deep sources. Some of the important projects likely to be taken up are: pilot plants for production of hormones, production of industrial alcohol by microbial technology, waste treatment, powder metallurgy (a nodal laboratory is being considered for this ongoing collaborative research), diamond production and diamond film coating technology, crystal growth techniques, production of lasers (particularly gas, gallium arsenide, yag lasers, etc.), carbohydrate chemistry-based technology, synchrotron radiation technology in the X-ray and vacuum ultra-violet region, material processing in space and microwave remote sensing and environment protection with particular reference to desertification.

Computer electronics: Computer electronics is one of the "hot points" of the proposed collaboration, Academician Marchuk said. According to him, details can be worked only after Indian computer specialists visit the Soviet Union and identify the specific areas. The two sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation in basic research in the area of mathematics, earth sciences, radio physics, astrophysics, chemical sciences and ocean sciences. Mathematics, particularly applied mathematics, in which the Soviets are strong, is likely to get a major thrust. The collaboration envisaged is in terms of joint seminars in the two countries and long-term exchange of students and scientists.

Exchange of students: Exchange of students in all fields, both at the graduate and post-graduate level, would be welcome in the Soviet Union, Academician Marchuk said. The Soviet Union would also like to cooperate in an advanced textbook production programme. The specific proposals, he said, should be worked out by the visiting Indian delegation. "We are interested in translating books by Indian experts," he said.

The two sides have also agreed to extend collaboration in the area of coal-based MHD (magnetohydrodynamics) power generation, high voltage transmission (AC and DC) and instrumentation and technology transfer in some of these areas will be considered. According to Prof. Rao, as a consequence of the present agreement, all the previous protocols and Joint Councils in S&T cooperation will now be rendered ineffective.

Two Memoranda of Understanding were also signed between the two countries for the organisation of an S&T exhibition in the USSR and India as part of the Festival of India and the Festival of USSR during 1987-88. These documents were signed by Dr. Vasant Gowarikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), and Dr. A. Kamenev, Deputy Chairman, USSR State Committee for S&T. The Indian exhibition will be held in Moscow, Leningrad and Tashkent and the Soviet exhibition, in Delhi, Bombay and Bangalore.

HINDU Voices 'Concern' Over Pakistani Army Leaders

BK251312 Delhi THE HINDU in English 19 Mar 87 p 9

[From G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, March 18.

The appointment of Gen. Akhtar Abdul Rahman Khan, Chief of Military Intelligence, as the next Chairman of the Pakistan Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, is viewed with some concern in Delhi because he is known to be a strong protagonist of that country's bid to acquire nuclear weapons.

As Chief of Military Intelligence, he has been exercising the overall responsibility for the security of Kahuta and other nuclear establishments in Pakistan, which meant that he had to work in

close concert with Dr. Abdul Qadir Khan and others engaged in the bomb project.

Though Gen. Ziaul Haq retains his dual position as President and chief of Army Staff, the elevation of Gen. Akhtar Abdul Rahman Khan could not have been done except with the intention of associating him more closely with Pakistan's bomb project and providing effective liaison between the Army and the nuclear establishment.

Sharp difference: According to well-informed diplomatic sources there have been sharp differences between the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Mohammed Khan Junejo, who sees no harm in keeping up the pretence that his Government remains committed to using nuclear power only for peaceful purposes and the hard-headed Army Generals who have set their heart on acquiring the nuclear capability as early as possible.

The outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Rahimuddin Khan, is not only a Zia loyalist but also related to him since his son is married to the daughter of Gen. Zia. In spite of this close relationship, Gen. Zia has not given him an extension, because he presumably wanted a tougher one like Gen. Akhtar Abdul Rahman Khan in this key position.

The operative head of the Pakistan Army, Gen. K.M. Arif, the Vice-Chief of Staff, is also retiring from the Army, but he is probably earmarked for a more important post in a civilian garb after shedding his military uniform. He would continue to remain as one of Gen. Zia's closest confidants performing such tasks that are assigned to him to sustain the Army grip on the country and the Government.

It is against this general background that many in senior positions in the Government of India who are otherwise well disposed towards Pakistan have been wondering whether Gen. Zia really interested in better Indo-Pakistan relations. During his recent visit to Delhi, he talked once again of his desire for improved political, economic and social contacts between the two countries and their peoples.

Rigid postures: But on his return to Islamabad, Gen. Zia's Government has reverted to the old rigid postures with no signs of any flexibility whether it is on trade, reopening of a southern land route, encouragement of more travel and tourism, or even exchange of newspapers, films and other items of cultural relations.

The much talked of spirit of bilateralism is totally absent in the policies and actions of the Pakistan Government, not only in relation to its nuclear pursuits but also in such small matters as observance of nominal good neighbourly relations.

The Indian experts on Pakistan have been taken aback by the revival of the virulent anti-Indian propaganda in some sections of the Pakistani Press accusing India of a formidable expansion of its military strength posing a grave threat to Pakistan. And the increase in the Indian defence budget is being used as an excuse to malign India as a war-mongering nation with hostile intentions.

Details on Pakistan Probe of Aircraft Hijacking Sought

BK021211 New Delhi THE HINDU in English 27 Mar 87 p 7

[From G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, March 26 — The Government of India wants to be taken into confidence and told about the outcome of the six-month investigation by Pakistan into the Pan American hijack episode in which so many innocent Indian lives were lost largely through the bungling of the security operations at the Karachi airport.

The Indian officials who have been following the Pakistani investigations closely are insisting on full information to make doubly certain that the real culprits who perpetrated this ghastly crime will be placed on trial without any attempts to withhold vital details to give them the benefit of doubt for political reasons.

Though an American plane was involved in this tragic episode, the U.S. Government itself has taken little or no interest in the progress of the investigations, nor put any pressure on the Pakistan Government to pursue the probe with greater vigour and come foward with full information about who instigated the criminal act which ended in a massacre of innocent Indian passengers including some who were American citizens.

It is for this reason that the Government of India is not prepared to accept at its face value the Pakistani claim that one of the PLO factions had masterminded the hijacking of this plane. As an aggrieved party India would be entitled under normal international practice to have an observer during the trial to satisfy itself that the prosecution had conducted the case competently without any reservations.

The Indian misgivings are partly justified by Pakistan's peculiar behaviour during the previous hijacking episodes involving Indian aircraft. It is for this reason that the Government has been nudging Pakistan to complete its investigations and file a charge-sheet against the culprits soon.

The Indian Embassy in Islamabad has no idea when and where the proposed trial would be held, and whether Pakistan had inquired fully into the alleged complicity of some of its own nationals who helped the hijackers to gain access to the inner area of the Karachi airport.

The issue has been raised by India at different levels over the past few months with the top leaders of Pakistan, but it got in return no more than the standard reply that the matter was still under investigation.

There is bound to be a serious setback to Indo-Pakistan relations if an attempt is made to shield these culprits by withholding vital information from the Court. It would destroy all trust in dealings with Pakistan even on other issues of a routine nature.

It is for this reason that India is keen that public opinion in this country should be fully assured that no attempt is being made by Pakistan to let off these criminals with a token punishment by feigning helplessness in the absence of conclusive evidence.

PATRIOT Views Latest Sri Lankan Talks Progress

BK021201 Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Mar 87 p 4

[From "Comment": "Talks in Colombo"]

[Text] Minister of State for External Affairs Natwar Singh recently answered both in Parliament in Delhi and Colombo queries about India's policy towards Sri Lanka. Indeed there are several questions about India's diplomatic style, aside from the contents of the Indian policy towards Sri Lanka. If it is not to be a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth, Mr Natwar Singh would be wise not to derive too much satisfaction from what he said he had achieved in his exchanges with the wily Sri Lanka President, in Colombo, and the gullible but obstreperous domestic opposition in the Indian Parliament. It is easy to make debating points in Parliament but less easy to hold Mr Junius Jayewardene to his plighted words, as the former chairman of the Policy Planning Committee, Mr G. Parthasarathy, discovered not so long ago.

Mr Natwar Singh told Parliament that with the "unwinding" of the economic blockade in Jaffna, Stage Two — the effort to find a political solution — should now commence. The Minister was convinced that Colombo "now adheres to the proposals of the 19th December in toto. This is our understanding". One would like to know if the Prime Minister's last emissary to visit Colombo, Mr Dinesh Singh, also shares Mr Natwar Singh's understanding of Mr Jayewardene's mercurial mind. The Sri Lanka President has confounded the Indian emissaries before, and he would doubtless want to befuddle them in the future. It is not enough that Mr Natwar Singh and Mr Chidambaram met the Sri Lanka President in the presence of India's High Commissioner in Colombo and that the Ministers took the precaution of having the agreed proposals committed to writing and having them copied, leaving one set behind. Mr Parthasarathi had the same experience, with the difference that he, being the gentleman he is, had not insisted on Mr Jayewardene putting his signature on the piece of paper. Mr Parthasarathi's faith in the strength of plighted words did not stop Colombo from reneging on what had been agreed between him and the President.

PATRIOT Criticizes World Bank Recommendations

BK021205 Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Mar 87 p 4

[From "Comment": "IBRD on India"]

[Text] The International Bank of Rehabilitation [as published] and Development (IBRD) or the World Bank has once again come up with what it thinks should be India's industrial policy. Suggesting sweeping reforms, the main message of the report on industrial sector is that of increasing domestic competition. This would, on the one hand, put in place a more efficient production structure and thereby lower domestic costs and, at the same time, provide a fillip to exports which suffer on account of the high-cost structure. In order to achieve this laudable objective it recommends almost across the board delicensing and decontrol. Paying lip service to defence and other areas of national security which are to be kept outside the purview of these reforms, it suggests removal of licensing banners to capacity growth, reduction of industries subject to licensing, revamping of the MRTP [Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices] Act, particularly with respect to the definition of asset limits, market dominance and interconnections, liberalising technology imports and foreign investment, doing away with the reservation policy for small-scale units and decontrolling industrial prices.

The gamut of reforms suggested is large and while it is indeed true that there are problems in the areas chosen for attention, the overall thrust of the report does not seem to be in consonance with what India, despite the World Bank influence, sees as its national interests, namely self-reliant and more equitable growth. It is indeed true that internal liberalisation and the consequent widening of the domestic market is an essential requisite to industrial expansion and exports just as is a dose of external competition for lowering costs and replacing obsolete technology. Unbridled market forces would not, however, take into account either the objectives of self-reliance or those of equity. Reforms in each of the areas would require consideration in the context of an overall strategy and a judicious mixture of market signals and planned direction.

HINDU Poll Finds 'Negative' Perceptions of Budget

BK021117 Delhi THE HINDU in English 23 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Madras, March 22 — Popular perceptions on the Budget for 1987-88 presented last month by the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, have tended to be negative, leaning on the side of the critics who viewed the event as uninspiring and lack-lustre rather than on the side of the Government which said it was development-oriented and innovative.

An opinion survey commissioned by *The Hindu* and conducted by the Operations Research Group [ORG] found that the majority of the respondents could not even identify any striking aspect in the Budget, an overwhelming majority expected a price rise and over half felt their condition would be no better or no worse for it.

The increase in defence spending proposed in the Budget finds overwhelming public support. On the other hand, popular perceptions tend to be negative or lukewarm towards the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's Budget performance in comparison with Mr. V.P. Singh's.

In the Budget, the large Plan outlay, the increased allocation for education and rural development and the steps to encourage savings and housing were among the positive features held out by the Government. On the other hand, the record deficit of Rs. 8,285 crores for 1986-87 together with the projected deficit of Rs. 5,688 crores for next year and the absence of any major new thrusts were generally seen as the negative features.

Two other issues which were the subject of widespread public discussion were the sharp rise in defence spending to Rs. 12,512 crores and the Prime Minister's move in taking over the Finance portfolio after shifting Mr. V.P. Singh to Defence.

The object of *The Hindu*-ORG survey was to assess the overall impact of the Budget on the urban public mind through six

questions touching on the different aspects. (Surveying rural India on such a subject would involve forbiddingly complex methodological, technical and logistical problems that wait to be taken on in the future). In all, responses were obtained from 2,050 persons in 36 urban centres spread all over the country two weeks after the Budget was presented.

On the question of whom the Budget would benefit the most, 64 per cent of the respondents viewed the impact in negative terms as benefiting the rich, the industrialists or none at all. On the other hand, only 36 per cent felt it would benefit the "people as a whole", the "poor" or the "rural sector". Interestingly, respondents in the South tended to view the Budget somewhat more positively than those in the other regions while the negative feeling was most marked in the East.

Asked to identify the most striking feature of the Budget, 54.5 per cent could not recall any specific aspect or said there was nothing significant. A little over 22 per cent were struck by its orientation towards development or the poor while 14.5 per cent regarded the increase in the taxes on television sets and cigarettes as the most noteworthy aspect.

On the Budget's impact on their own economic condition, 51.7 per cent felt they would not be affected one way or the other. Nearly a third (30.5 per cent) felt they would be worse off while less than a fifth (17.7 per cent) expected to be better off on account of the Budget.

Concern over the large budget deficits leading to a rapid increase in prices seems widespread, with over 90 per cent of the respondents feeling that this was "certain" or "likely". Interestingly, the deficit seems to have caused much more alarm in the North and the West than in the Southern and the Eastern regions.

The Government can draw some comfort from the fact that the one aspect of the Budget for 1987-88 that seems to be backed overwhelmingly by the public is the proposed increase in defence spending. Nearly two thirds (65.6 per cent) felt the rise was justified, although there were some significant regional variations. The support for the increase was the most marked in the North (76.5 per cent) and the lowest in the East (54.5 per cent).

On the comparative rating of the handling of the Budget by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. V.P. Singh, the overall impression was not favourable to the Prime Minister. Nearly 43 per cent felt that the change of portfolio had made no difference to the Budget while a marginally higher proportion felt he had done worse (29.1 per cent) rather than better (28.2 per cent) than Mr. Singh would have done.

SRI LANKA

President Meets With Indian High Commissioner

BK030325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, called on President Jayewardene twice yesterday. He is reported to have conveyed a message from the Indian Government.

It may be recalled that India had told Sri Lanka that it would convey to the Sri Lankan Government the outcome of its contacts with the Tamil groups on the peace proposals.

Two union ministers, Mr Chidambaram and Mr Natwar Singh, met the groups in Madras last week.

The Sri Lankan president is planning to hold a meeting with the opposition political parties to discuss the Indian message.

Separatist Leader on Negotiations, Army Camps

BK021221 Delhi THE HINDU in English
27 Mar 87 p 8

[Text] Madras, March 26 — Mr. V. Balakuma, member of the executive committee of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation [of Students] (EROS), today said that if the Government of India or the outside world were to approach the Sri Lankan ethnic crisis keeping Jaffna alone in focus, it would be impossible to arrive at a solution to the problem. Mr Balakumar, who has returned to Madras after a three-month stay in the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka, said "We are not at peace with the standpoint of the Government of India that it is enough if Jaffna is free."

Addressing a press conference, he said the Sri Lankan Government would again conduct a "drama" of negotiations. But before an atmosphere was created to bring about a ceasefire and revival of negotiations, the Tamils in Sri Lanka would like India to send them supplies of food, clothes, fuel and medicine as starvation was already stalking the Eastern Province and parts of the Northern Province. India should bring international rpessure on Colombo to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross and other organisations to do relief work in the Tamil areas.

The Government of India should press the island Government to restore the military position that obtained prior to December 19, 1986 before any talks began, Mr Balakumar said. (The Sri Lankan army launched a massive army onslaught in the Tamil areas of the North and the East after December 19 last).

85 army camps in East: Since the commencement of India's medicatory efforts in July, 1985, when the ceasefire and the peace process were set rolling, the Sri Lankan Government had set up 85 army camps in the East alone. Indeed, there was no space left in the East to establish any more army camps. Hence, the Government of India had a moral responsibility to pressure Sri Lanka to dismantle these camps before any negotiations began, he said.

As Colombo was about to execute a military solution to the Tamil problem, India should accord recognition to all the Tamil militant organisations and also extend them all possible help. He was making this appeal on behalf of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, he said. The plight of the Tamil refugees had become worse and they lay scattered all over the world like the Palestinian refugees. India should initiate measures for the U.N. to accord recognition to the Tamils as refugees, in the climate of the U.N. Human Rights' Commission's resolution passed against Colombo recently in Geneva.

Colombo's aim: The EROS leader said Colombo had agreed to India's mediatory role in 1985 under "unavoidable circumstances". Its aim now was to isolate India from the peace process; it was not interested in solving the issue. Colombo was planning to use the by-election from the Trincomalee constituency to create an impression that normality had returned to the Tamil areas and thereby remove India from the peace process.

The Sri Lankan army was poised to captured Jaffna any time. It had built up a stockpile of arms and ammunition and also massed in 20,000 soldiers in the camps in the Jaffna peninsula. The army had established its hold at Kangesanthurai, Tondamannaru, Point Pedro, Karainagar, Mandaitheevu and other places. But it had succeeded in duping India by giving an impression that it was not keen on capturing Jaffna, especially after the Government of India initiated some diplomatic moves recently.

There were altogether 136 army camps in the North and the East. The situation had deteriorated after December 19, 1986. Six army camps had been established in Mannar District alone in February this year and three camps were set up in Kilinochchi District also. The army was also using its garrison at the Elephant Pass to block food supplies from the North to the Jaffna peninsula. Its scheme of allowing the Tamil civilians to draw their fuel supply from the army camps was an "eyewash" as no civilian could go anywhere near the army camps. The scheme, in effect, was "militarisation of civil administration".

When this was the actual position, Colombo had created a totally false impression that the situation changed after India had initiated diplomatic steps. In fact, the Tamils had become "psychological wrecks" and were undergoing indescribable suffering. The army was constantly shelling the civilian areas from its camps in the peninsula and people perpetually lived in fear. His return to Tamil Nadu was to highlight in India the plight of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, Mr. Balakumar said.

Not officially communicated: Replying to a question on the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's remark that India would go ahead "unilaterally" if the Tamil militants rejected the December 19 proposals, he said he was confident the Prime Minister would not ignore the Tamils' views and do anything. Mr Gandhi had given as assurance that India would not go against the Tamils' aspirations. India had also said that the December 19 proposals were "only a basis and a starting point" for negotiations. The proposals had not been officially communicated to the Tamil groups.

Asked whether the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was losing to the Sri Lankan army in Jaffna he said the LTTE

still had Jaffna under its control. Since the militants did not have an air defence system, they had to retreat in the North. But in a guerrilla warfare, the tactic was to withdraw temporarily and advance permanently. It could not be construed as a defeat for the LTTE or EROS. As far as possible, the EROS helped the LTTE militarily as it was the duty of EROS to protect the Tamil people. he said.

Student Suspects Held for Subversive Activities

BK011411 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1245 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Thirty-six undergraduates of the University of Ruhuna, Matara, were today remanded by the Matara Magistrate on a suspicion of engaging in subversive activities against the state. Police told LANKA PUWATH the 36 university students, including 2 women, were remanded until April the 14th.

The four suspects of the W.D. Amarapala murder case were further remanded until the 15th of April by the additional magistrate, Colombo, Mrs Malini Abeywardene, today. The suspects are wealthy Colombo businessmen — Mohammad Iqbal Ibrahim, Pullikutige Sonny, Hanniff Kitchil, and Gothatume Gamini. When the former Sri Lanka customs intelligence chief, W.D. Amarapala, murder case was taken up, the counsel for the fourth suspect said that the suspect was prepared to be a witness for the prosecution.

Police have arrested 13 suspects in connection with an ongoing Mafia-type gang war at Narahenpita in the city of Colombo. This has resulted in several cases of murder, arson, and bombings. Police told LANKA PUWATH that arms and ammunition were also seized.

18 Killed in Attack on Army Camp in Velvettiturai

BK030318 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 18 persons died in north Jaffna peninsula yesterday when the Tamil militants launched an attack on Velvettiturai army camp.

An official communique issued in Colombo said eight militants were killed and many more are believed to have suffered fatal injuries in the battle. Two soldiers also died.

An unconfirmed report from the peninsula indicates that at least 10 soldiers died in the attack. Militant casualties are also reported to be high.

Most of the civilian population in and around the area have fled the scene.

There is another report of the militant attack on two other camps at Kankesanthurai and Palaly in the peninsula.

Majlis Speaker's Sermon on U.S. Arms Sales, War

LD031522 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA — Majlis Speaker and a substitute leader of Friday congregational prayers in Tehran Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Friday that the past calendar year 1365 (March 21, 1986-March 20, 1987) had brought triumph for Iran both at the battlefronts and in the global political arena.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam who was sermonizing to a multitudinous group of worshippers at the compounds of Tehran University during the Friday mass prayers reflected on the country's performance in the war scene and in relation with the big powers over the past Iranian calendar year and said that the past Iranian year (1365) had brought Washington the most serious infamy and discredit that the United States had suffered throughout its history.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani who was referring to the under-cover visit to Tehran by U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane last year accused the Americans of planning to cheat and victimize the Iranians in a military sales which culminated in the abortive visit to Iran by U.S. envoy McFarlane.

He said for a long time since the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in Iran the Americans through their middlemen had tried to cajole the Islamic government into believing that Washington respected the Islamic Revolution and that it had a bona-fide intention to resume relations with it, but that their fraudulent approach to the Islamic government each time had betrayed their schemes.

Rafsanjani said as a result of Iran's assertive role in dealing with foreign government's last year, the French Government paid a segment of its loan to Iran which it had received during the shah's time, and that in addition it had agreed to expel anti-Iranian emigre groups (mainly the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and their leader Mas'ud Rajavi) from France which had for seven years served as a haven for anti-Iranian terrorists.

Rafsanjani said in the war fronts Muslim troops scored memorable triumphs between March 21, 1986 and March 20, 1987 (the Iranian calendar year)

He said over the period Iran's Muslim forces shot down as many as 150 Iraqi warplanes, and 70 helicopters, wrecked at least one thousand Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers, captured at least eight thousand Iraqi soldiers, wrecked at least 500 of their artillery pieces and that during the same period as many as 200,000 Iraqi soldiers had been eliminated from active service.

Rafsanjani said as a result of the bold fighting of Iran's Muslim forces over the past Iranian year the Iraqi forces had lost ground to Iran's Muslim combatants in such areas as Shalamcheh, Hajj 'Umran, Nahr-Jasim, Du'ayji, 'Umm-Tavilah and Bawarin Island.

He said during his sermons at a Friday congregational prayers in Tehran immediately before the New Year's Day last year (March 21, 1986) he had predicted the year 1365 (1986-87) to augur a crucial set-back for the Iraqi government and that the developments during the past Iranian year had well proved his prophesy.

Elsewhere in his second sermon to worshippers here Majlis speaker Rafsanjani drew a parallel between the social and political situation in Iran during March 1986-March 1987 and that in the Arabian Peninsula following the battle of "Khandaq" in the fifth year after the emmigration of prophet Muhammad (SAW) from Mecca to Medina, and the battle of "Ahzab".

He said that the plots against the Islamic government by sold out elements in Iran and by its foreign enemies over the past year were in nature the same as those designed against Prophet Muhammad (SAW) during the battle of Ahzab.

Rafsanjani said while Iran's Muslim combatants were doing acts of self-sacrifice at the battle scenes this past year, foreign-inspired elements and specifically members of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) had provided secret information to the Iraqi Government in relation with the war, but that their schemes had fallen short of bringing the results they had hoped to attain.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Confers With SAIRI Chairman

LD022322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] [title as heard], met and conferred with Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim presented a report on Iraq's internal situation, on the effects of the "Karbala'-5" operation and how it has further weakened the morale of the personnel of the Iraqi regime, and the recent false propaganda of the regime ruling over Iraq.

Discussions were held on the conference of solidarity with the people of Iraq and its impact on the revolutionary movements of the Iraqi people, on following up the decisions of the conference and the role of Iraqi Mojahedin who participated in the "Karbala'-5" operations, and also on the need for greater participation on the part of Iraqi Mojahedin in combat operations.

During the meeting they discussed the activities of the SAIRI in connection with defense of human rights, the exposition of numerous occasions when these rights have been violated by the Saddam regime, and the conveyance of these instances of human rights violations to international forums and countries friendly to the Iraqi nation.

During this meeting the Majlis speaker provided the necessary guidelines in connection with greater activities by the SAIRI and the nature of these activities. While expressing sympathy and support of the Iraqi Mojahedin, he hoped that the two nations of Iran and Iraq may soon rid the people of the region from the onus of the Ba'thist 'Aflaqite Party.

Guards Corps Claims New Year Will Be 'Fruitful'

LD021730 Tehran IRNA in English 1229 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 2, IRNA — A spokesman for the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) said here Thursday that fatal blows dealt on the Baghdad regime last Iranian year (ended March 20), drove the Iraqi war machine down the slope of complete destruction.

He said that in total a suitable opportunity had been provided to deal final crushing blows on the Baghdad regime, hoping that with the expanded presence of Muslim forces in war fronts, which would soon be started by the dispatch of 'Saheb-az-Zaman' divisions (Mahdi (AS) corps), victories of the last year would bear fruit.

To this end, the spokesman added, the superpowers and supporters of the Iraqi regime would not be allowed to place the faintest hope in the survival of the Ba'thist regime of Baghdad.

He said that the new Iranian year would be one of the most active and fruitful periods in the Iraqi imposed war and that the IRGC had prepared plans to continue its sacred defence until the total annihilation of the Ba'thist enemy.

Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2,794

LD021636 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 2, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran continued their battles with Iraqi troops throughout the fronts Wednesday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy, said a military communique here Thursday.

Communique Number 2,794 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iranian long range artillery fire shelled Iraq's Al-'Amyah oil platform in the Persian Gulf Wednesday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern and western fronts Wednesday, killing several Iraqi soldiers and destroying 10 enemy gun emplacements.

In the southern fronts Wednesday, Iranian Muslim combatants opened heavy artillery and tank fire on Iraqi positions and armoured units, suppressing all enemy military and engineering operations. A convoy of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Yebis was forced to flee by artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of enemy positions together with two munitions dumps were set ablaze in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts Wednesday, in artillery duels with Iranian forces.

Early Wednesday, a convoy of Iraqi patrols, backed by artillery fire attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in the southern theater of Helaleh, but were smashed and their fire silenced and their fire silenced by Iranian artillery fire.

Muslim combatants of Iran shelled key Iraqi targets in Hajj 'Umran, Marivan and Sardasht, northwestern fronts, Wednesday inflicting considerable casualties and losses on enemy troops. Two enemy vehicles were also set afire in Hajj 'Umran.

Iraqi infantry and patrol units sufferred several casualties and losses at Kalaleh heights Wednesday by Iranian artillery fire, the communique concluded.

'U.S. Agent' Arrested in Power Struggle Bid

LD021812 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] In the wake of the intensifying power struggle among the ruling factions, which has reached a peak, the Khomeyni regime has arrested Mozaffar Baqa'i, a disgraced U.S. agent.

Mozaffar Baqa'i has close relations with and cooperates with ruling elements, especially with the Resalat faction. He was arrested by the regime while Khomeyni, in order to safeguard the shaky ruling columns of the Islamic Republic and the unity among the savage wolves of the ruling ranks, has embarked upon encouraging and [words indistinct] another faction within the ruling circle.

The arrest of Baqa'i has occurred during a renewal of emphasis in government propaganda on the role of (?Montazeri) as the successor to leadership. This comes at the same time as the crushing of Medhi Hashemi's group which resulted in especially weakening Montazeri's role and also after the renewal of demands to bring Hashemi and others to trial, which has recently been voiced by Reyshahri, the butcher.

It is along the same lines that the regime, in order to maintain its balance in the clashes between the ruling factions, has arrested Mozaffar Baqa'i. The aim is to present the manner in which unity has been established among the leading officials during the so-called year of unity.

However, the crisis-striken Khomeyni regime, caught in a comprehensive and pervasive crisis, is unable to prevent the (?intensification) of contradictions within the ruling circles by any means or solutions.

Khomeyni Guards Kill Four During Protest

LD022113 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] During a bloody clash between an angry group of people, who were frustrated by the regime's criminal deeds, and Khomeyni's oppressive guards, the criminal guards opened fire and killed or wounded a number of people.

This act of resistance and protest on the part of the people against Khomeyni's criminal guards took place in the Mir-Davud region between Ahvaz and Ramhormoz. As a consequence of the guards' merciless bullets, at least four defenseless people were pitifully martyred and some others were wounded.